
Local Government Committee

HB 1268

Brief Description: Authorizing donation of unclaimed personal property to nonprofit charitable organizations.

Sponsors: Representatives Goodman, Eddy, Ross, Curtis, Clibborn, Darneille, Hurst, Lovick, Simpson, Moeller, Kenney, Ericks, Rolfes and Springer.

Brief Summary of Bill
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Allows the state patrol, county sheriffs, and local police agencies to donate any unclaimed personal property to nonprofit charitable organizations provided such property is used for the benefit of needy persons.

Hearing Date: 1/23/07

Staff: Jessica Nowakowski (786-7291).

Background:

Washington law has an extensive statutory scheme regarding procedures for the treatment and disposal of lost and/or unclaimed personal property. These statutes include provisions regulating how police departments, county sheriffs, and the state patrol must dispose of such property. The regulations governing these law enforcement agencies are similar, each containing procedures for the disposition of unclaimed property that include:

- notice requirements to the owner, if the owner has been identified;
- sale of unclaimed property at auction;
- destruction of certain types of property (e.g., dangerous, illegal, or worthless items); and
- retention of the property by the law enforcement agency under certain circumstances.

State law allows an exception to these general rules for county sheriffs and local police departments regarding the disposition of unclaimed bicycles, tricycles, and toys. This exception allows these items to be donated to nonprofit charitable organizations. No exception exists with respect to such unclaimed items that are in the possession of the state patrol.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

Summary of Bill:

The state patrol, county sheriffs, and local police agencies may donate any unclaimed personal property to nonprofit charitable organizations provided such property is used for the benefit of needy persons.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.